

REMARKS

Claims 1- 20 were originally filed in the parent application Ser. No. 09/928,769. New claims 21-22 were added in a response to the first office action dated July 2, 2002. In a Request for Continuing Examination, claims 23-48 were added. Claims 31-48 were subject to a Restriction requirement. The parent application has been allowed.

In the present application (filed as a divisional application), claims 1-20 of the parent application have been canceled and new claims 21-38 were added in a preliminary amendment filed concurrently with the application. The new filed claims were substantially claims 31-48 of the parent application that were subject to a restriction requirement. All amendments made to the specification in the preliminary amendment filed on January 14, 2004 were also made in the parent application.

In the present document, claim 25 has been amended to remove a conditional clause in the claim language. Claim 30 has been amended to correct grammatical errors in the claim. The specifications have been amended to provide a proper reference to the issued parent application. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

The office action of October 5, 2004 addresses claims 1-20 of the application as filed. It is evident from the office action that the preliminary amendment filed with the present application was not entered into the application. This matter was discussed on December 22, 2004 with the Examiner. The Examiner indicated that the preliminary

amendment had now been entered in the application.

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees for these amendments to **Deposit**

Account 02--0429 (584-23131-USD).

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: December 22, 2004

Kaushik P. Sriram, Reg. No. 43,150
Madan, Mossman & Sriram, PC
2603 Augusta Suite 700
Houston, Texas 77057-5638
Tel: (713) 266-1130 x 121
Fax: (713) 266-8510
Attorney For Applicants